

Application No.: 10/532786

Case No.: 57832US005

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated April 12, 2007. Claims 1-7 are pending. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Abstract was objected to due to use of the word "said." Applicants have amended the Abstract to correct the informalities.

The specification was objected to due to informalities. Applicants have amended the disclosure on page 7 to remove the potentially confusing language and have amended the paragraphs on page 11 to correct the figure and reference numbers.

Claims 5-7 were objected to as a result of the multiple dependencies. Applicants have amended claims 5-7 so that they are not multiple dependent claims.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,555,461 (Ackerman). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as having been obvious over Ackerman.

In order for a claim to be anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102, a single prior art disclosure must contain all the elements of the claim and disclose them as arranged in the claim. Sandt Tech., Ltd. v. Resco Metal and Plastics Corp., 264 F.3d 1344, 1350 (Fed. Cir. 2001) (citing Carella v. Starlight Archery & Pro Line Co., 804 F.2d 135, 138 (Fed. Cir. 1998)).

Claim 1 has been amended to state that the "waste flows along the direction of the discharging grooves." Applicants respectfully submit that Ackerman does not disclose this feature. Ackerman shows that its cleaning member, the plate or blade, does not have a plurality of parallel discharging grooves. In particular, Ackerman's cleaning member has an absorbent pad 41 that soaks up ink from the print head and transports the ink to a set of parallel grooves. However, these parallel grooves are not the cleaning member or any part of it. Moreover, they do not collect the ink from the print head. Rather, the grooves appear to collect the ink from the absorbent material.

The present invention as recited in claim 1 does not need an absorbent material to soak up the ink from the print head. It uses the parallel discharging grooves to collect and transport the ink or cleaning solution away from the print head. As recited in claim 1, the ink is transported

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along the direction of the discharging grooves. Ackerman does not disclose or suggest this structure recited in claim 1 and thus cannot anticipate it.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-7 are patentable for at least the reasons provided for their base claim 1.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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